

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are pleased to submit a letter of support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) joint Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Chickasaw Nation for the Red River Bridge project in Love County, Oklahoma, and Cooke County, Texas.

The Red River Bridge project would improve transportation and freight mobility along the I-35 corridor in the Texoma region that covers southern Oklahoma and northern Texas, and includes the Chickasaw Nation. The INFRA grant funding would help expand I-35 between Gainesville, Texas, and the Red River at the Oklahoma/Texas state line with the addition of two lanes in each direction. The Red River project will also include operational and roadway improvements at both ends, along with the construction of new I-35 bridges over the Red River. This project will improve regional transportation, facilitate the safe and efficient movement of freight traffic, as well as enhance local connectivity, access to jobs, development opportunities, and reduce congestion and greenhouse emissions.

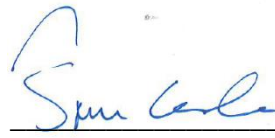
The Red River Bridge Project will have significant positive impacts in both Oklahoma and Texas, especially within the Chickasaw Nation. The infrastructure that is currently in place was built in the 1960s and can no longer accommodate current traffic volumes of 50,000 vehicles per day. This project will enhance this critical river crossing that connects some of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the nation and supports regional, national and international trade moving along the I-35 corridor. Additionally, tribal and local leadership has advocated for this project as it will vastly improve the interstate productivity and overall quality of life of these communities.

We thank you in advance for your serious consideration of ODOT's joint application for this INFRA grant. Please contact Victor Sarmiento at victor_sarmiento@inhofe.senate.gov if you need any further assistance as you consider this important project.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Tom Cole
Member of Congress